

DETAILS: HOUSE OF FRANCIS I., CHAMPS ELYSEES, PARIS.



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THIS house, formerly under the name of "Maison du Tonnelier," was, according to tradition, built at Moret, by Francis I. The little town of Moret, of very ancient origin, is situated two leagues from Fontainebleau. As forests bound it on all sides, Francis I. had an idea of establishing there a meeting place for hunting; and he caused the elegant edifice, which our drawings illustrate, to be erected. Its interior clearly shows for what object it was constructed. The three great arches which decorate the front occupy nearly the whole space of the ground-floor.

This house being sold in 1826 by the Government, it was bought by a lover of the arts, who caused it to be transferred, stone by stone, to Paris, where, in the *Champs Elysees*, the house of Moret was rebuilt, uninjured, with its own debris. The sculpture is attributed to Jean Goujon.

A section of the cornices, strings, &c., on the front wall is given, and some of the details to a larger scale. The date 1929, in the frieze, refers to the installation of the rebuilt structure. This house is an excellent example of the Renaissance period in France.

BEAUTY IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

THE following extracts from Mrs. Tuthill's American "History of Architecture," reviewed by us some time since, are interesting as affording evidence of the growth of a right feeling in America, in respect of beauty, and, moreover, may have their use in England:—

"The public squares of Philadelphia are incalculably important to the health of the city. Beneath the dense foliage of Washington-square, crowds of merry children enjoy, unmolested, their healthful sports. Within the enclosure of Independence-square, was first promulgated the Declaration of Independence. Franklin-square has in the centre a fountain, falling into a handsome white marble basin. Penn, Logan, and Rittenhouse-squares are also ornamental to the city.

The New-Haven-green has been justly celebrated as one of the most beautiful public squares in this country. Its elms are remarkably fine; it has recently been enclosed with a light and tasteful iron-railing, which adds much to its beauty.

Many of our large cities are entirely destitute of such green retreats. Gardens and squares are so necessary to the health, as well as the enjoyment of those who are shut up in the close streets of a city, that it should be considered an imperative duty to provide them for all classes of the inhabitants. It may be urged, that if left open and free, the decorations would soon be destroyed by the populace; some few rude hands might occasionally make sad havoc among them, but when the people have once learnt how much such places of resort contributed to their health and pleasure, they would carefully protect them from injury.

'The beauty of the edifices constitutes the principal beauty of the streets, squares, and



city in general. And who should preside over this department? Every city should have its Academy of Architecture, without whose approbation nothing should be erected.' (The independence of American taste would not submit to such dictation.) 'The height of the houses should never be more than three stories, their façades regular and well proportioned, all equally simple, but differing in their style and ornament. Uniformity should be admitted in the squares only.'

'The public edifices should be so placed as to suit public convenience. The university, colleges, and high schools, should stand upon commanding situations, with squares and courts about them, planted with trees and ornamental shrubbery, excluding as much as possible the noise and dust of the city. A correct taste would thus be early implanted in the minds of the young, and a love of the beautiful 'grow with their growth and strengthen with their strength.' Banks, exchanges, and custom-houses should be built where 'men most do congregate' and have the expression of richness and durability.

Markets, with abundant space about them, should be as near the suburbs as convenience permits, and should stand at the termination of some of the principal streets. The Boston market-house is finely situated, and is a beautiful building.

Hospitals, manufactories, and magazines, should be without the city, in open elevated places, where they can enjoy a free, fine atmosphere. Cemeteries should be laid out with taste; planted with suitable trees and evergreens, and kept with scrupulous neatness. Architecture ought to be displayed with the greatest sublimity in churches, which neither on the exterior nor within should have anything mean or inelegant. They should stand upon an open square, or at the termination of a street presenting the whole façade to close the vista.

Villages.—Bad judgment and bad taste have prevailed in the laying out of many of the villages in the United States. The New England villages have been much admired for their neatness and beauty. An observing and venerated author,* whom we have once or twice quoted, thus contrasts the villages, or towns, in the Connecticut Valley with those on the Hudson River:—'They are not, like those

along the Hudson, mere collections of houses and stores, clustered round a landing, where nothing but mercantile and mechanical business is done, where the inhabitants form no connections nor habits beside those which naturally grow out of bargains and sales; where the position of the store determines that of the house, and that of the wharf often commands both; where beauty of situation is disregarded, and every convenience, except that of trade, is forgotten. On the contrary, they are villages destined for the reception of men busied in all the employments existing in this country. The settling in them is not merely to acquire property, but to sustain the relations, perform the duties, and contribute to the enjoyments of life. Equally, and, to my eye, happily, do they differ from most European villages. The villages on the other side of the Atlantic are exhibited as being generally clusters of houses, standing contiguously on the street, built commonly of rough stone, clay, or earth, and roofed with thatch, without court-yards or inclosures, and of course incapable of admitting around each house the beautiful appendages of shrubs, trees, gardens, and meadows.

New England villages, and, in a peculiar degree, those of the Connecticut Valley, are built in the following manner.

'The local situation is pitched on, as a place in itself desirable; as a place, not where trade compels, but where happiness invites to settle. Accordingly, the position of these towns is usually beautiful.' One wide street, planted with trees, generally passes through the whole length of the village. 'The town plot is originally distributed into lots, containing from two to ten acres (not twenty feet by fifty!) In a convenient spot, on each side of these, a house is erected at the bottom of the court-yard, often neatly enclosed, and is furnished universally with a barn and other convenient out-buildings. Near the house there is always a garden, replenished with culinary vegetables, flowers, and fruits, and very often also, prettily enclosed. The lot on which the house stands, universally styled the home-lot, is almost, of course, a meadow, richly cultivated, and containing generally a thrifty orchard. It is hardly necessary to observe, that these appendages spread a singular cheerfulness and beauty over a New England village, or that they contribute largely to render the house a delightful residence.'

These villages have been the models of many in the western part of New York, and still farther west. The buildings in some of these villages, especially in the State of New York, are superior to those of New England. Who has not admired the beautiful location of Canandaigua, Geneva, and Skanateles, upon their lovely lakes? The refined taste exhibited in their style of building, too, has excited the surprise and pleasure of travellers. We have been accused of a want of patriotic and generous feelings as a nation; of possessing strong individuality of feeling and interest, amounting to absolute, controlling selfishness. This accusation may, or may not be true; it is perhaps as difficult for us to know ourselves as a nation, as the wise Milesian considered it for each one to be acquainted with himself. It is certain that we have too few objects of common interest. Every state, county, and even village, is divided into innumerable jarring and contending parties and sects. Though a prosperous, we are not a cheerful people. Anything that would contribute to unite public feeling, by bringing men to act together for the general good, would be a great benefit to a community. Suppose it to be a public garden and promenade, open and free to all. Every villager contributes according to his means to this object. Some suitable persons are chosen to lay out the grounds, others to keep them in order. It belongs to the village, it must be beautiful, for the good of the village. It is a common object of thought, feeling, and action. The moral influence of it will soon be felt. The man, instead of going to the tavern for the news, may walk out at the sweet hour of summer twilight, and beneath spreading trees enjoy the society of his neighbours, and at the same time have his children under his eye.

If this public garden or promenade were richly and tastefully arranged and ornamented, a desire for neat and pleasant dwelling-houses

* President Delight.